



13 June 2005



Army Family Action Plan General Officer Steering Committee

1. The Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) General Officer Steering Committee (GOSC) met in May 2005 to provide direction and review the progress made on AFAP issues. The GOSC reviewed 28 issues from the November 2004 AFAP Conference. Of those issues, 15 remain active, 10 were considered complete, and 3 were determined to be unattainable. USAREUR submitted the following issues:

- **Funding for Department of Defense Dependents Schools Summer School for Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade.** This is considered a completed issue.

- **Calculation of Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance OCONUS.** This issue remains active.

2. Listed below are the May 2005 GOSC recommendations for the top issues from the AFAP Conference. These issues remain active:

- **Family Member Eyeglass Coverage.** TRICARE currently has no eyeglass coverage for family members of active duty Soldiers and retirees. The GOSC recommended funding part of the cost for eyeglasses under TRICARE and outsourcing eyeglass fabrication through vendors at a reduced price. The committee also recommended having military laboratories provide Frame of Choice Program services at cost.

- **Expiration of TRICARE Referral Authorizations.** TRICARE automatically cancels the initial referral authorization when the beneficiary is unable to get an appointment with a specialty clinic or health-care provider within 28 days. The GOSC recommended eliminating the automatic cancellation.

- **Childcare Fee Category.** Families with significant income differences are paying the same fee within each childcare category. The GOSC recommended increasing the number of categories to reduce the financial variance within each category. The committee also recommended increasing the number of fee ranges to reflect the new categories while maintaining the existing fee-range parameters.

- **Leave Accrual.** Increased mission requirements allow little opportunity for Soldiers to use accrued leave. The GOSC recommended allowing Soldiers to accumulate and carry up to 90 days of leave until their expiration term of service.

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3. Although Army families are strong and resilient, the Global War on Terrorism presents constant challenges for them and for Army family readiness programs. The AFAP continues to meet these challenges by adopting new strategies to help families stay strong. I encourage you to be a part of the AFAP process and help make our great Army even better. Contact your Base Support Battalion or Area Support Group for more details on the AFAP.



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